



“Serving Those Who Served”

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Vol. 8 Issue 1

SPRING 2007

Merchant Marines Post Flag Alongside Other Military Branch Flags



Jack Godsey was honored to post the Merchant Marines service flag at the March ceremony in Olympia.

The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) and the Veterans Legislative Coalition took time on March 16th to post the Merchant Marine Flag in the WDVA Central Office Conference Room alongside the service flags of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. During the brief ceremony, Director John Lee pinned on the three mariners present the Honorable Service Lapel Button. The button, also known as the "ruptured duck," was given as a token of appreciation to every U.S. service member discharged during and after WWII.

A Merchant Marine is a civilian except in times of war, when they are effectively considered military personnel governed under the provisions of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936. During the Second World War, they were formally considered volunteers and not members of the military, often described as draft dodgers, criminals, or riffraff. However, their wartime record reveals that their losses were among the highest of any group in the front lines.

For 43 years, the U.S. government denied them benefits until Congress awarded them veterans' status in 1988, too late for 125,000 mariners, roughly half of those who had served.

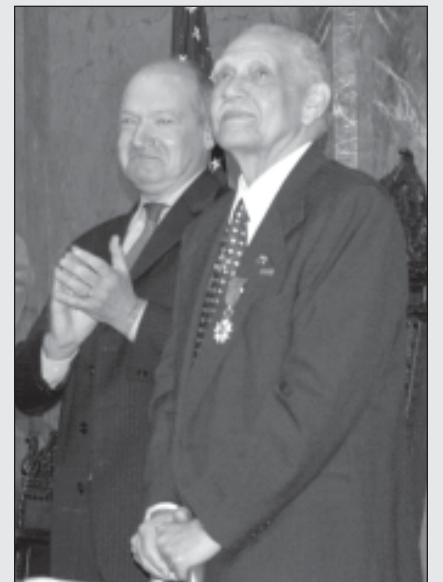
"It's one of the injustices of American history," wrote Brian Herbert, author of "The Forgotten Heroes," a book about the Merchant Marines of World War II.

State Legislature Honors War Heros



Medal of Honor recipient LTC Bruce P. Crandall, U.S. Army (ret), receives official recognition from the State of Washington.

Story on page 7



CWO Christopher P. Navarre, Sr. U.S. Army (ret), presented the French Legion of Honor Chevalier.

Story on page 7

A message from Secretary of State Sam Reed



As defenders of our constitution and nation, you fully understand how important it is to make your voice heard through the ballot box. We owe it to each of you for putting on our nation's uniform and protecting our rights, to ensure that you have every opportunity to exercise your constitutional right to vote.

Washington State's elections have dramatically changed over the past few years to make voting more accessible, enhance security, and to make sure our men and women

overseas have adequate time to participate.

Here in our state and throughout the country, citizens have experienced a transformation to the way we vote. As voters you have seen first hand many of those improvements.

January 2006 marked the first time our state had a single statewide database with Washington's 3.2 million voter registrations. Effective January 1, my office consolidated 39 separate county voter registration lists into one and began searching for duplicate registrations, felons, and deceased voters. This database

allows us to improve the accuracy of elections and prevent opportunity for fraud.

Last year, voters with disabilities were able to vote freely and independently for the first time using new electronic voting equipment. Disability voting machines are available in all counties for 20 days before each election. This new technology meets the federal

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Check our Events page frequently at www.dva.wa.gov/Events for the latest information on Memorial Day Activities around the state.

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Director's Message



John E. Lee
WDVA Director

Improving Services to Homeless Veterans

As a way to publicly measure how state agencies are performing, Governor Gregoire instituted a Government Management, Accountability and Performance or GMAP system.

When I attended my first GMAP meeting in November of 2005, Governor Gregoire asked me point blank what I was going to do to improve services for Homeless Veterans.

At the time, I didn't have a clear picture of what this 'improvement' would look like. Today, I can not only describe for you what it looks like, but I can tell you it's working! Here are some examples:

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program for Women: This \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor provides employment and training services to homeless women veterans in King, Snohomish, Pierce, Kitsap and

Thurston Counties. Last year, WDVA enrolled 248 honorably discharged women veterans in the program and provided 197 with housing and 187 with job placements at an average wage of \$11.08 per hour.

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project in Rural WA: A \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor also provides employment and training services to homeless veterans in 22 Eastern Washington Counties. From July 1, 2006, through December 31, 2006, WDVA has enrolled 65 honorably discharged veterans and assisted 50 veterans with housing and employment, with an average starting wage of \$10.41 per hour.

Incarcerated Veterans Project: This state-county partnership began in King County and addresses the unique needs of veterans in the county jail systems. The program intervenes, advocates and provides case management for honorably discharged veterans in order to reduce the chances these veterans will re-offend. In turn, this reduces the likelihood they will end up in our state prison system. In 2006, 888 veterans were served. 243 were enrolled in the program, 100 were assisted with housing and 49 were assisted with job placements. Currently, this program is being implemented by Pierce County and our goal is to assist all interested counties with setting up similar programs.

King County Veterans Reintegration Services: A partnership between WDVA and King County, this program assists

veterans with chronic issues such as homelessness, addiction, lack of job skills and mental illness. In 2006, the program served 3,140 veterans, provided financial assistance to 1,274 veterans and housed 501 homeless or soon to be homeless veterans.

Retsil Transitional Housing Program: This program will accept its first veteran in September, 2007, and will provide transitional housing for up to 40 veterans who need assistance with re-entering the workforce. Veterans will receive assistance with barriers that are keeping them from sustaining housing or employment.

Centralized Admissions Team: This team is responsible for admissions at the three State Veterans Homes: Retsil, Orting and Spokane. In 2006, they were successful in placing four homeless veterans, who were in need of long-term care services, into our Veterans Homes.

While the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs has always prided itself on being a good steward of state resources, we are now going one step further by measuring and tracking performance to better demonstrate why we are a good investment.

As always, if you know a veteran in need of assistance, please have them contact us at 1-800-562-2308.

Salute to Armed Forces Night with the Mariners



The Seattle Mariners hosted a 5th Salute to Armed Forces Night on Tuesday, April 3. The pre-game festivities included recognizing active duty personnel, as well as Veteran Service Organizations. Mariners joined the veterans on the baseline during the Pledge of Allegiance.

WDVA and Washington's Lottery teamed up to provide scratch tickets to the first 3,000 veterans or active service members who visited the WDVA booth! And M.O.M.S. (Mothers of Military Support) provided 5,000 Support Our Troops magnets!

The Proof is in the Success!

Veterans Stewardship Fund + WDVA Customer Service = a Difference in Woman Veteran's Life

Here's her story:

Prior to my 18th birthday, my parents signed so I could enlist in the U.S. Air Force. That was 1977. Less than two years later, I had been raped, undergone open heart surgery and received my discharge, along with a 10% disability rating for headaches.

From 1979 until 1993, I struggled with living a normal life, made choices – both good and bad – and finally went on Social Security Disability, because of deteriorated health.

From 1993 until 2002, I lived on less than \$600 a month, and spent time in PTSD programs, as well as drug and alcohol programs through the VA in Spokane, Walla Walla and American Lake.

In 2002, the African American PTSD reopened my claim with the VA, and in June 2004, I was granted 100% service-connected disability.

For the next two years, my choices took me on a rollercoaster ride that left me and my service dog, Abby, living in my car.

Then, on October 19, 2006, I made what was possibly the best choice I ever made.

I made a phone call to Alfie at the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs and told her I didn't know what to do and didn't know where I was going.

I had met Alfie at a public meeting in Walla Walla months earlier, and she had given me her card and told me if I ever needed anything, give her a call. We had lunch together, and she was so precious and down-to-earth and made me feel like I was worth something, so I kept her card.

And months later, I made that phone call.

Before I knew it, I was at the WDVA office for an assessment, where I met Sandra Myrick. She moved me into the Olympia Inn, gave me Safeway cards for food, worked with creditors to clear up my credit and found me permanent housing, with the stipulation that I have a fiduciary set-up.

On November 16, 2006, Abby and I moved into the most beautiful apartment you could ever want to see.

The Share and Care House is my payee, and makes sure my rent and living expenses are paid on time, so I don't have to worry anymore about Abby and having a place to live. I don't have to live at the VA anymore and can now live life and enjoy.

I do wonder if I'd be alive if it wasn't for WDVA.

They made me feel like I was really worth something.

Editor's Note: Total financial assistance from the VSF was only \$2,522.75

Service Officer Test Scores Greatly Improve After 3-day Training

The WDVA sponsored 2007 "Service Officer Training Conference" was held on April 3,4, 5, and attended by 136 participants. This was the fourth consecutive year in which WDVA has planned and coordinated this significant and productive training event for Service Officers from the Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) within the State of Washington.

In total, 109 "contributing" Service Officers attended the Training Conference this year. In order to be considered a "contributing" Service Officer, a Service Officer must produce at least two VA claims per month, and an annual total of at least 24 claims (this group has produced over 8,700 VA claims for veterans since July 1, 2006 --- indicating there are many "SUPER-contributors" in the group!).

For the first time, the Service Officer Training Conference also included the participants from The American Legion, AMVETS, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliaries. These women were among those who attended the "Ladies Auxiliary Conference" last September, and expressed a strong desire for further training so that they could also begin to provide claims assistance to veterans.

Instructors were selected because of their knowledge and expertise in the subjects that VSO Service Directors, and many of the Service Officers themselves, had identified during the past year as areas in which more training was desired.

In order to gauge the effectiveness of the training, a Pre-Test was given to all attendees during the first morning of the Conference. On the last morning of the Conference, the same test was again administered, and the average grades on the 60-question tests were compared.

Red Group:	Pre-Test---70%	Post-Test---94%
Blue Group:	Pre-Test---68%	Post-Test---91%
Green Group:	Pre-Test---68%	Post-Test---93%

These demonstrated improvements are very gratifying, and signify both their attentiveness during the training sessions and their growing competence as Claims Advocates on behalf of our state's veterans and family members.

This 2007 Service Officer Training Conference was attended by Service Officers from the African-American PTSD Association ; The American Legion ; AMVETS; the Military Order of the Purple Heart ; the National Association for Black Veterans, Inc; Paralyzed Veterans of America; The Veterans of Foreign Wars; the Vietnam Veterans of America; the WA Department of Veterans Affairs; as well as, Tribal Veteran Representatives.



The Veterans of Foreign Wars always has a large number of service officers attending the training conference each year.

VOTE

Continued from page 1

mandate to allow voters with disabilities to cast a secret ballot without relying on the help of a family member or election worker.

This year our state's primary will be held in August. Washington State used to hold one of the latest primaries in the country. Due to the late September Primary, election workers had just four or five days after certification of the primary to mail ballots to our armed forces overseas. In the worst-case scenario, these citizens did not receive their ballots in time to vote and return them.

All military and overseas ballots are now required to be mailed out 30 days before an election and now have until 20 days after the election to arrive and be counted.

You may live in a county that has now decided to vote entirely by mail.

Voting by mail gives citizens an opportunity to become better informed on the issues and the candidates by studying the Voters' Pamphlets and candidate literature while voting in the comfort of your own home.

In addition to all of these changes, my office has new authority to audit county election practices and procedures more frequently. Each county elections office will be reviewed every three years.

These and many other reforms in the last few years have significantly improved the way we vote.

The right to vote is an honor and a responsibility.

We must do our part as American citizens to make our voices heard each election.

To register to vote visit:
www.vote.wa.gov or call 1-800-448-4881

In The Spotlight

Award Winning Documentary Keeps Washington State's Women of WWII Alive

They were at Normandy Beach, Buckenwald Concentration Camp, Japanese Internments Camps, the Battle of the Bulge, and here on the home front... and these women earned their place in history. DURING THE WAR WOMEN WENT TO WORK.... is a new award winning documentary (Silver Telly ®) that focuses on the personal stories of the women of Washington State during WWII. Many people know about the women pilots or Rosie the Riveters, but do not realize how many other roles women took on during the war. The new roles they took on dramatically changed the world for the women of today.

In 1995, a group of Washington State Veterans wanted to be able to tell their stories in their own words before they passed away. Their intent was never to glorify war, but instead to try to help educate future generations so that history does not repeat itself. The results of their efforts are two national award winning documentaries, 300 hours of interviews, an educational website www.WWIIhistoryclass.com, lesson plans, and an amazing personal record of a part of Washington State's history.

Although almost all of the original group of veterans, and many of the interviewees have passed away, their stories will live on forever. As a part of the final phase of this project 3,000 copies of the documentary DURING THE WAR WOMEN WENT TO WORK, are being made available for free to Washington State Schools, including private schools and home schools during the spring and summer of 2007. The Washington State Legislature provided the funding for this distribution. The complete video and lesson plans is also available online at www.WWIIhistoryclass.com.

"I have been so lucky and honored to be able to work on this project," said Karl Schmidt, Executive Director of Bristol Productions, located in Olympia, Washington. "This group of veterans came to us with their dream of creating a documentary and educational materials. They trusted us to tell their personal stories, and they asked us to make sure they don't just end up on a shelf somewhere. That is what I am doing today.... working to make sure that teachers, students, librarians, and family members know that all of this out there for them to use."

For more information call Karl Schmidt, (360) 570-3324 or email karl@bristolproductions.com

www.wwiihistoryclass.com

"Serving Those Who Served" takes on new meaning when the service provider and recipient share a similar background. At the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, the number of employees who are veterans ranks high, providing a personal connection with clients not always achieved in other agencies.

In an effort to introduce these dedicated employees, WDVA will highlight a different veteran/employee each issue.

In 1980, Hollywood had "Private Benjamin".

During that same time period, the U.S. Army at Fort Dix in New Jersey had Private Liza Serrano-Abad.

26 years later, you know her as Liza Narciso, WDVA's executive assistant to deputy director Alfie Alvarado.

A native of the Philippines, Liza moved to Hawaii shortly before her 18th birthday in order to claim U.S. citizenship.

While there, a neighbor serving as a cook in the U.S. Army presented Liza with a picture of glamour and adventure serving in the military, took Liza to the local recruiting office and the rest is history.

Sort of.

On Feb. 2, 1982, less than a month after Liza first visited the recruiter, she returned to "sign some papers", assuming she was still in the process of "thinking" about joining.

That day, she was sworn in, had her physical ("I kept hitting the doctor's hand, telling him he couldn't touch me like that – he wasn't my husband!"), and was given a one-way ticket to travel to Fort Dix, New Jersey for that evening.



1982



2006

"My whole family was at the airport to tell me goodbye when I left for basic training," said Liza.

"While we were waiting for my plane, they were making bets with each other about how long it would take for me to flunk out and come home, with some of them sure it would

be no more than a week."

During basic training, her drill sergeant was sure she'd be "recycled". She had never walked a mile, never did a sit-up, never held a gun and "no one had ever told me to get up at 4 in the morning and clean my room!"

Growing up, Liza had maids to take care of her, so cleaning a bathroom that someone else had used was not something she believed would actually be expected of her, and let her drill sergeant know that.

"As much as I wanted to quit, I didn't want to go home to 'I told you so', so I stuck it out, learned to shoot an M16 without closing my eyes and actually received a certificate as the Most Improved Trainee when I graduated from basic training," said Liza.

Liza met her husband Sergio while serving at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri in June 1982, they married in November of 1982, and told her parents about 6 months later, when Sergio was transferred to Hawaii. "I went first, because I needed to tell them and give them time to calm down before he arrived," said Liza.

Liza received an honorable discharge in 1986, and spent the next 13 years as an Army wife and mother until Sergio retired at Fort Lewis in 2003.

Before coming to WDVA, Liza worked at Department of Corrections and the Liquor Control Board.

Washington State Department of Health
Tobacco Quit Line
1-800-QUIT-NOW
toll-free 1-800-784-8669
QUITLINE.COM

How about a unique Father's Day Gift for the Military Dad in your life?

An Armed Forces License Plate for the car, motorhome, trailer or motorcycle is the answer!

Place your cash donation inside a card or a gift certificate downloaded from the WDVA website at www.dva.wa.gov.

Armed Forces License Plates are available to eligible veterans/active duty/Guard & Reserves/widows(ers) at any Vehicle Licensing Office. The original cost of an Armed Forces plate(s) is \$40.00 plus any applicable licensing fees. When registration is due, you pay an additional \$30.00 to keep the Armed Forces plate(s) even if you have not had the plate(s) for a full year. \$28 from your purchase and renewal is directed to the Veterans Stewardship Account and is tax deductible.

\$28 from each sale will help support:

- ★ Programs/services for homeless veterans;
- ★ Memorials honoring veterans; and/or
- ★ Maintenance of a future state veterans' cemetery

1-800-562-0132

Number of Armed Forces Plates Sold as of 5/1/07

**National Guard: 292
Coast Guard: 409
Air Force: 1,305
Mairine corps: 1,399
Navy: 1,533
Army: 2,287**

Total: 7,225

Washington Veterans Home Highlights

New Superintendents Serving WDVA



Mary Prentice, a native of the Pacific Northwest, graduated from Northwestern College of Business in Portland, Oregon.

She is a Vietnam-Era veteran who enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1970. After

completion of her air traffic control training, she was transferred to Hamilton AFB, where she spent the remainder of her Air Force career as an Air Traffic Controller.

Mary discharged from the Air Force and married in 1974. She later received her BS from Marylhurst College in Oregon, and in 1984 became a licensed Nursing Home Administrator in Oregon.

Her career of over 20 years in Nursing Home Administration has taken her from Oregon to Texas and, for the last 8 years, to Washington.

Prentice began her tenure at the WA Soldiers Home on February 12.

Email: maryp@dva.wa.gov

Phone: 360.893.4512



David Crawford was selected for the Superintendent position at the Spokane Veterans Home.

Crawford served in the U.S. Army and after an honorable discharge returned to Washington and received his BS from

Central Washington University and his MBA in 1991.

In 1984, he received his Nursing Home Administrator's license and has worked for more than 20 years in long-term care and assisted living facilities in both Washington and California.

In addition to bringing a great deal of experience to WDVA, Crawford also brings a great deal of passion for veterans, both young and old. His son is a new veteran, recently receiving an honorable discharge - as well as two Purple Hearts - after serving with the U.S. Army's 1st Infantry in Kosovo and Iraq.

Email: davidc@dva.wa.gov

Phone: 509.344.5775

Street Talk



We asked some Baseball Fans at the WA Veterans Home in Retsil if they preferred the American League or the National League rules.

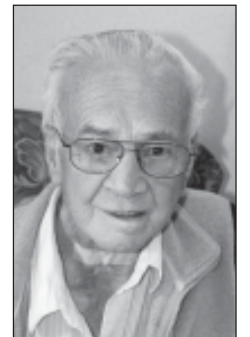
"I prefer the American League. Having a DH makes the game more interesting."
--91 year old Arthur Granstrom
WWII Army Veteran



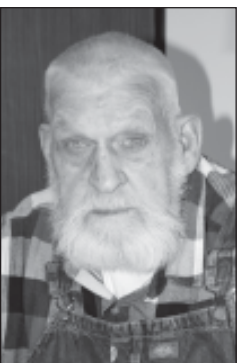
"I like the American League. When you have really good batters you can put them in the lineup as the DH."
--George Parker
Vietnam Air Force Veteran



"The American League is best. 99% of the pitchers can't hit anyway. The best DH I ever saw was Edger Martinez."
--Walt Brown
Korean War Army Veteran



"I like the National League, the game should be played the way it was originally started. They should do away with the DH, but that will probably never happen."
--Milt Kintner
Korean War Marine Corps Veteran



Blue Star Memorial Placed at Retsil Home

It was a beautiful Saturday morning April 14th, the day the National Garden Club was to dedicate the Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker at the WA Veterans Home.

At 2:00 p.m. when the program was to start the skies clouded up and poured on the residents and staff attending the event.

In spite of the weather, Cathy Hall, Director of the Cross Sound District of Garden Clubs began the dedication. She introduced special guest First Gentleman Mike Gregoire, who shared his memories of seeing the By-Way markers along the highways he traveled with his father.

The Chairwoman for the WA State Blue Star Markers, Dorothy Dwyer gave a history of the Blue Star Makers program. Then June Willard, President of the WA Federation of Garden Clubs read the dedication remarks, as Jon Clontz,

Chief of Homes Operations accepted the marker on behalf of the Home residents.

By the end of the program, the sun had again come out and the umbrellas were put aside.



First Gentleman Mike Gregoire was given his own picture of the marker by resident Carl Conn.

HISTORY: The Blue Star Memorial Marker Program of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. began in 1945 to honor the men and women serving in the Armed Forces during World War II. The name was chosen for the star on flags displayed in homes and businesses denoting a family member serving. Garden clubs pictured a ribbon of living memorial plantings traversing every state. The designation of Blue Star Highways was achieved through petitions to the state legislatures and cooperation with the Departments of Transportation. A uniform marker was designed to identify the Highways. The Blue Star Memorial Program grew to extend thousands of miles across continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii. All men and women who have served, are serving, or will serve in the Armed Forces of the United States are included.



(Left to Right) First Gentleman Mike Gregoire; June Willard, President, WA Federation of Garden Clubs; Senator Derek Kilmer; Cathy Hall, Director, Cross Sound Dist. of Garden Clubs; Dorothy Dwyer, Chair., WA Blue Star Markers; and Jon Clontz, Chief of Homes Operations.

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in Spokane
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509-344-5779**

If you are a veteran, spouse, or widow/er searching for high-quality nursing care or acute rehabilitation...

A WA Veterans Home may be the place for you!

For information or an application call **1-877-838-7787**

Applicants must have:

- Served at any time, in any branch of the US Armed Forces;
- Received an honorable discharge.



Legislative Update



The 2007 Legislative Session adjourned sine die on April 22. For those who followed this session closely, you know that veterans issues were discussed and many of the veteran-related bills that were introduced passed!

There were several bills that did not make it all the way through the process, most notably the Exemption of VA Compensation/Pension from state Property Tax Calculations, however, this particular bill did make it further this year than it ever has in the past. Both SB 5256 and HB 1102, which dealt with the Exemption of VA Compensation/Property Tax issue, are eligible for consideration during the 2008 Legislative Session.

Below is a brief summary of the veteran-related bills that WDVA tracked. For more information on any of these bills visit: www.dva.wa.gov and click on Legislative Updates or call 1-800-562-0132 and select option #1.

HB 1064 – Addressing veterans' benefits

Summary: Repeals RCW 73.08.060, restrictions on sending veterans or their families to almshouses.

Status: Passed House 96-0 / Passed Senate 49-0 / Delivered to the Governor for signature

HB 1065 – Revising veterans' scoring criteria in examinations.

Summary:

- The score adjustment for eligible veterans must be applied to civil service exams whether the state hires a private company to administer the exams, or administers the exams itself.

- For veterans returning to employment with the state after active military service for one or more years, five percentage points will be added to the score of every promotional examination until the veteran's first promotion, instead of to the score of one promotional examination only.

Status: Passed House 95-0 / Passed Senate 45-0 / Delivered to the Governor for signature

SHB 1079 – Regarding hunting and fishing license fees for a person with a disability

Summary:

- Requires the Fish and Wildlife Commission to develop a new definition for the term "person with a disability" in the Fish and Wildlife Code.

- Changes references in the Fish and Wildlife Code to language that meets respectful language requirements.

Status: Passed House 98-0 / Passed Senate 45-0 / Delivered to the Governor for signature

HB 1168 – Regarding disorderly conduct.

Summary: Makes engaging in certain disruptive behavior within 500 feet of a funeral or burial, funeral procession, or memorial service subject to prosecution for disorderly conduct.

Status: Signed by Governor February 2, 2007 / C 2 L 07

SHB 1259 – Allowing the parks and recreation commission to deny or revoke the issuance of a park pass in certain circumstances.

Summary:

- Permits the State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) to deny or revoke a parks pass if there is cause.

- Permits the Commission to enter into agreements for reciprocal discounted programs with other outdoor recreation agencies.

- Permits the Commission to issue a permit, pass, or other approval for scientific research within a state park that provides for the killing of a bird or other animal.

Status: Passed House 94-0 / Passed Senate 47-0 / Delivered to the Governor for signature.

HB 1292 – Establishing the eastern Washington state veterans' cemetery.

Summary: The Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) is authorized to establish a State Veteran's Cemetery in

Eastern Washington. All honorably discharged veterans and their spouses are eligible for internment in the Eastern Washington State Veterans Cemetery. The WDVA is granted rule making authority.

Status: Signed by Governor April 17, 2007 / C 43 L 07

HB 1507 – Creating the uniformed service shared leave pool.

Summary: The Uniformed Service Shared Leave Pool (Pool) is created. Shared leave paid under this Pool, in combination with military salary, may not exceed the level of the employee's state monthly salary. Military salary includes base, specialty, and other pay, but does not include other allowances, such as a housing allowance. Monthly salary includes special pay and shift differential, but does not include overtime pay, call back pay, standby pay, or performance bonuses. Employees requesting leave from the Pool must provide earnings information to the Department of Personnel.

Status: Signed by Governor April 10, 2007 / C 25 L 07

HJM 4017 – Naming portions of Highways 112 and 113 the Korean War Veteran's Blue Star Memorial Highway.

Summary: Requests that the Washington State Transportation Commission commence proceedings to name Highway 113 in Clallam County between the junction of Highway 101 and the junction of Highway 112, and Highway 112 from the junction of Highway 113 to the Makah Indian Reservation in Neah Bay the "Korean War Veteran's Blue Star Memorial Highway(s)."

Status: Filed with the Secretary of State

HJM 4651 - Recognizing Lieutenant Colonel Bruce P. Crandall.

Summary: That the Washington State House of Representatives officially recognize Lieutenant Colonel Bruce P. Crandall for his heroic service in the defense of the United States of America and for his steadfast commitment to the lives and fighting spirit of his fellow pilots and soldiers

Status: Adopted by the House April 16, 2007

SB 5002 – Changing tuition waivers for families of fallen veterans and national guard members.

Summary: Higher education institutions may continue to reduce all or a portion of tuition for military or naval veterans who did not serve on foreign soils or in international waters. State higher education institutions must waive all tuition and fees for the children and spouses of eligible veterans or National Guard members who died, are permanently and totally disabled, are missing in action, or are prisoners of war. To be eligible, a child must be a Washington domiciliary between the age of 17 and 26. A surviving spouse, to be eligible, must be a Washington domiciliary, it must have been 10 years or less since the loss, and must not have remarried. Each recipient's continued eligibility is subject to the school's satisfactory progress policy.

Status: Passed Senate 47-0 / Passed House 98-0 / Delivered to the Governor for signature.



SB 5123 – Protecting persons with veteran or military status from discrimination.

Summary: The Washington Law Against Discrimination is amended to prohibit discrimination based on a person's status as a veteran or member of the military, as it relates to employment; commerce; real estate transactions; places of public resort, accommodation, or amusement; insurance transactions; and credit transactions. "Veteran or military status" is defined to include any honorably discharged veteran as defined in RCW 41.04.007, and any active or reserve member in any branch of the armed forces of the United States, including the National Guard and Coast Guard.

Status: Passed Senate 48-0 / Passed House 90-7 / Delivered to the Governor for signature.

2SSB 5164 – Expanding the veterans conservation corps program.

Summary:

- Expands the Veterans Conservation Corps to include both volunteer projects as well as training, education, certification, and placement programs.

- Creates a new Account to be used for purposes of the Veterans Conservation Corps program.

- Requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide three reports to the Legislature on various issues concerning the Veterans Conservation Corps program.

Status: Passed Senate 46-0 / Passed House 97-0 / Delivered to the Governor for signature.

SSB 5242 – Establishing an internship program for wounded combat veterans.

Summary: The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) must establish an internship program for returning wounded combat veterans. Positions may include, but are not limited to engineering, construction trades, logistics, and project planning. The emphasis of the program should be to assist veterans who served in southern or central Asia, (Operation Enduring Freedom) and the Persian Gulf (Operation Iraqi Freedom). WSDOT may adopt rules to implement this program. Placement of veterans as apprentices under existing apprenticeship programs is encouraged.

Status: Signed by Governor April 18, 2007 / C 92 L 07

SB 5253 - Creating a list of and decal for veteran-owned businesses.

Summary: The Department of Veterans Affairs is directed to create and maintain a list of veteran-owned businesses and to post the list on the Department's public web site. The Department must distribute decals to list-members that identify their businesses as veteran-owned. To be eligible, a business must be at least 51 percent owned and controlled by a veteran as defined in RCW 41.04.007. Businesses may apply to WDVA to be included on the list.

Status: Signed by Governor April 9, 2007 / C 11 L 07

SJM 8008 - Asking that the federal government provide veterans' benefits owed to Filipino veterans.

Summary: The Senate and House of Representatives of the state of Washington petition the President and Congress of the United States to amend the Rescission Act of 1946 to restore to Filipino veterans full United States veteran status with military benefits. The Memorial also petitions the President and Congress to give priority in the issuance of immigrant visas to the descendants of Filipino World War II veterans.

Status: Filed with the Secretary of State

SR 8639 – Recognizing Lieutenant Colonel Bruce P. Crandall.

Summary: The Washington State Senate officially recognizes Lieutenant Colonel Bruce P. Crandall for his heroic service in the defense of the United States of America and for his steadfast commitment to the lives and fighting spirit of his fellow pilots and soldiers.

Status: Adopted by the Senate April 16, 2007

Medal of Honor Recipient's Name Etched in Stone



Medal of Honor recipient LTC Bruce P. Crandall, U.S. Army (ret), received official recognition from the State of Washington at the Capitol in Olympia on Monday, April 16, 2007.

LTC. Crandall received the Medal of Honor from President George Bush on Feb. 26, 2007, for heroic actions in the Battle of Ia Drang while serving as a Flight Commander with Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division in the Republic of Vietnam.

The Washington State Senate and the Washington State House of Representatives began the proceedings with reading of resolutions in each chamber, followed by a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda.

Governor Chris Gregoire and First Gentleman Mike Gregoire were then joined by leaders of all branches of the military, elected officials, agency leaders, as well as veterans and community members in the Capitol Rotunda to honor LTC Crandall.

Master of ceremonies Don Brunell, president of the Association of Washington Business presided over the event, which included the Washington Military Department Color Guard, the Gospel Outreach Choir of Olympia, as well as the presentation of LTC. Crandall's Washington State Medal of Honor license plates.

Following the indoor recognition, the Governor and LTC Crandall officially unveiled the addition of Maj. Bruce P. Crandall's name on the Washington State Medal of Honor Monument on the capitol campus, as the Inter-Tribal Warriors Society presented a rifle salute and TAPS.

LTC Crandall's Medal of Honor Citation can be viewed at <http://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/crandall/>

WWII Hero Awarded French Legion of Honor Chevalier

Christopher P. Navarre, a World War II veteran and member of the 761st Tank Battalion, was named a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor at a recent ceremony in Olympia, WA.

The Legion of Honor is a French order that was established by Napoleon Bonaparte, First Consul of the First Republic, on May 19, 1802, and was presented to Navarre by Consul General of France in San Francisco Mr. Frederic Desagneaux, on behalf of the President of the French Republic.

Navarre is the recipient of the Purple Heart and the Silver Star, awarded in 1997, after a 52-year delay.

Generous Donations to VIP!

Post Commander Carl Blow and members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1949 honored the Veterans Innovations Program with its second donation in January 2007.

Frosty Hulsey (center) made the presentation of a \$500 check to Deputy Director Alfie Alvarado and Director John Lee. 100% of this donation will be used to serve our state's newest veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Noble Eagle.

The first donation to the Veterans Innovations Program was received on November 29, 2006 when inmates of the Shelton Correctional Facility presented a check in the amount of \$272!

Several veterans incarcerated at the facility wanted to do something around the holidays to help Washington State Veterans. They organized several donation drives to raise the funds. Thank you!

Individuals or organizations wishing to donate may make tax-deductible contributions to the VIP. More information is available by calling 1-800-562-0132 and pressing '1' or by visiting: www.dva.wa.gov/vip_donations.htm



A Musical Tribute

The Gospel Outreach Choir of Olympia paid tribute to Medal of Honor recipient LTC Bruce P. Crandall at the Capitol Rotunda on April 16.

Since 1996, the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs has been privileged to work with this wonderful group.

"We've watched the original group grow up as younger students from the school waited for their turn to be up there singing," said WDVA director John Lee. "It's inspiring to see the way they continue to touch the hearts of all our veterans they sing for."

Always a shining example of respect and decorum, this dedicated, professional group of very talented young men and women have provided a magic touch to every event they've participated in, and we look forward to many future occasions of working together.



A letter from the Chairman of the State of Washington 2007 Time of Remembrance Committee – Shirley Schmunk

Dear State of Washington,

On July 8, 2004, my son, Specialist Jeremiah W. Schmunk, was killed while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces in Baghdad.

The grief of losing Jeremiah is slowly going from unbearable to manageable, in part because of the outpouring of support from family, friends and all the wonderful people across the country who only know me as the mother of a fallen hero.

Last year, the White House Commission of Remembrance held a ceremony for the families of all those who have died in service to our country during Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Although we have lost more than 70 young men and women from Washington State, only 7 individuals from our state were able to attend.

I was fortunate to be able to take the time from work, as well as being able to financially afford the enormous expense of traveling to D.C. for the ceremony. To have the opportunity to talk with other mothers who understood was worth every penny spent.

But, what about all the mothers and wives, fathers and husbands, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, who couldn't attend because of the distance, the time, or the expense?

Who truly understands their loss and will help them heal?

The answer is – All of Us.

Please join us on Sept. 29-30, 2007, at the "2007 Time of Remembrance" in Richland, Washington.

2007 TIME OF REMEMBRANCE September 29 - 30, 2007 Richland, WA



Event: State of Washington "2007 Time of Remembrance"
(For information 1-360-725-2180)

Purpose: * To bring together the families and the comrades of Washington's fallen heroes of Afghanistan and Iraq, as a time of healing.

* To unite the citizens of the State of Washington in Remembrance and Honor of our states' fallen, and celebrate the freedoms they have protected for us.

Public Invited: Saturday, September 29, 2007
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Howard Amon Park – Richland
Entertainment and Food Vendors
Candlelight Vigil at 7:00 pm

Sunday, September 30th, 2007
11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Flat Top Park – West Richland
Commemorative Event Honoring
the Families and their Fallen Hero

**The State of Washington "2007 Time of Remembrance"
needs your help to make this event possible!**

How You Can Help:

*** Hold a fundraiser; * "Sponsor" a Family; * Make a Donation ***

Your contribution or donation will directly support the event, to include attendance scholarships for the families of our State's fallen heroes of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Contributor:

Name of Organization

Address

City

State

Zip

Donation Amount:

Please make checks payable to A.C.E.S. for "2007 Time of Remembrance" and send to:

A. C. E. S.
2007 Time of Remembrance
PO Box 1253
Richland, WA 99352

www.acescares.org

*ACES is a 501 c 3 tax exempt organization
All proceeds will be used for "2007 Time of Remembrance".

Any additional proceeds will be used for a future Memorial to honor Washington's Fallen Heroes of Afghanistan and Iraq.